

21 November 1960

MEMORANDUM of Conversation with []

1. As indicated in my journal, I met with [] on three occasions - the Ramat Aviv on November 3, and at lunch and dinner on November 5. [] spoke at great length about the Eichmann capture and the Lavon affair. (I asked [] whether you had received all of the information pertaining to both of these cases that you wished, and he said he had conveyed all detailed information and was "in a position to get anything else" that you desired. Thus, I imagine that most of the information given me by [] is already in your hands.)

2. EICHMANN - [] was outspoken about all details pertaining to the Eichmann capture, except for the actual removal of Eichmann from Argentina. He did not volunteer information on this point. He said that twelve Israelis participated in the mission and that the two El Al pilots were an Englishman named JONES, now an Israeli citizen and married to an Israeli girl, and an Israeli pilot. The crew were informed only that they were participating in a "military mission". However, during the return flight (Argentina to Dakar to Israel) the crew were able to figure out who their guest was. [] said that, contrary to general belief, his service did not know that Eichmann's wife had returned to Austria to have her passport renewed. [] told in great detail of the manner in which their man in the Argentine had established Eichmann's identity - having his house under close surveillance on the day that would have been Eichmann's twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, seeing him return at six o'clock in the evening with flowers, and observing the family join him thereafter, etc. [] said that during ten days after his apprehension no one spoke to Eichmann except on one occasion when he was asked if he would be willing to go with them to Israel for a "fair" trial. At first Eichmann said he would not but on the following day he agreed. He subsequently signed a document saying he would return voluntarily to Israel to stand trial. [] said further that when the German attorney representing Eichmann first came to Israel he found it difficult to believe that Eichmann had been treated well, and that this had also been a revelation to Eichmann himself. [] added that he and his service had received hundreds of letters from people all over the world and twenty-five bottles of champagne from people he did not know. He said he had given material for the Herald Tribune articles to the correspondent Rosenfeld and that through an intermediary he had been offered \$280,000 by the Saturday Evening Post for the "true story of the capture".

-2-

3. He was particularly pleased that he had received a message from [] expressing pride in the high professional confidence demonstrated in the capture. Over all, [] appears still to be highly elated and very pleased with the public adulation he has received. He said, "In our business, of course, you cannot expect to be thanked, and this has really been extraordinary."